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pol·i·cy¹  (pŏl ĭ-sē)

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n. pl. **pol·i·cies**

1. A plan or course of action, as of a government, political party, or business, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters: *American foreign policy; the company's personnel policy.*

2.

a. A course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered expedient, prudent, or advantageous: *Honesty is the best policy.*

b. Prudence, shrewdness, or sagacity in practical matters: *It is never good policy to speak rashly.*

[Middle English *policie*, art of government, civil organization, from Old French; see [POLICE](#).]

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pol·i·cy²  (pŏl ĭ-sē)

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n. pl. **pol·i·cies**

1. A written contract or certificate of insurance.

2. A numbers game.

[Obsolete *police*, from French, contract, bill of lading, from Old French, from Old Italian *polizza*, alteration of Medieval Latin *apodixa*, receipt, from Medieval Greek *apodeixis*, from Greek, proof, from *apodeiknunai*, to prove : *apo-*, intensive pref.; see [APO-](#) + *deiknunai*, to show; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

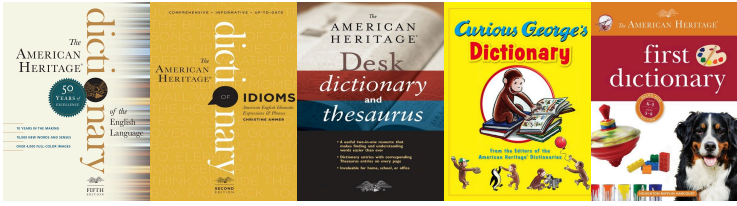
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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